

REMARKS

Rejection of claims 19-29 under 35 U.S.C. §101

The examiner rejected claims 19-29 under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Claim 19 is amended herein to recite recordable computer readable signal bearing media. As a result, the examiner's rejection of claims 19-29 under 35 U.S.C. §101 has been traversed. In addition, applicants point out that claim 30 has also been amended to recite recordable computer readable signal bearing media.

Rejection of claims 1-20 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The examiner rejected claims 1-20 and 22-31 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Prager. Each of these claims is addressed below.

Claim 1

Claim 1 has been amended herein to include the limitations of claims 2 and 8. As a result, the examiner's rejection of claim 8 needs to be addressed. In rejecting claim 8, the examiner reads col. 15, line 25 of Prager on the model class in claim 8, reads col. 12, lines 8-11 and 62-64 of Prager on the system aspect class of claim 8, and reads the abstract of Prager on the collection of system aspect objects in claim 8. Applicant respectfully asserts that neither the cited nor the uncited portions of Prager teach or suggest claim 1 as amended.

Col. 15 line 25 of Prager is part of the overall sentence: "Management-by-subscription is a paradigm that utilizes central configuration database executing on a manager machine to store configuration information." While this cited language recites

configuration information, it does not recite a model class that defines a model object that corresponds to the model computer system and that contains the configuration information. Furthermore, the model class in claim 1 is part of the first portion that cannot be modified by a user. Nowhere does Prager teach or suggest that the configuration information stored in the central configuration database cannot be modified by a user. Furthermore, while the model class is part of a first portion of an object oriented framework mechanism that cannot be modified by a user, the system aspect class in claim 1 is part of a second portion of the object oriented framework mechanism that is extensible by the user. The concepts of framework, classes that cannot be modified by a user, and classes that are extensible by the user have not been properly addressed by the examiner, and are not present in Prager.

Applicant's specification at p. 8 line 12 to p. 9 line 8 states:

The Term *Framework*

There has been an evolution of terms and phrases which have particular meaning to those skilled in the art of OO design. However, the reader should note that one of loosest definitions in the OO art is the definition of the word *framework*. The word framework means different things to different people. Therefore, when comparing the characteristics of two supposed framework mechanisms, the reader should take care to ensure that the comparison is indeed "apples to apples." As will become more clear in the forthcoming paragraphs, the term framework is used in this specification to describe an OO mechanism that has been designed to have core function and extensible function. The core function is that part of the framework mechanism that is not subject to modification by the framework purchaser (referred to herein as a "user"). The extensible function, on the other hand, is that part of the framework mechanism that has been explicitly designed to be customized and extended by the user. Note that the term "core function" is described in the specification and claims as functions that cannot be modified by a user. However, because a function is a core function does not mean that a user is somehow prevented from modifying it. A user could use class replacement, for example, to replace core classes in a framework. However, the design of the framework intends that certain classes and class relationships remain undisturbed by the user, and these functions comprise the "core functions" of a framework. Thus, when core functions are described in a way that they "cannot be modified by a user", this means that the core functions cannot be modified by a user within the design parameters of the framework.

The only reference in Prager to object oriented anything refers to “a class of template objects which can be used by system administrators to establish consistent and coherent configuration management policies (operating guidelines).” Prager Abstract, lines 16-19. Because Prager does not teach an object oriented framework mechanism that includes a first portion that comprises a model class that cannot be modified by a user, and a second portion that comprises a system aspect class that is extensible by the user, claim 1 is clearly allowable over Prager.

Claims 11 and 19

Claims 11 and 19 have been amended herein to include the limitations that were added to claim 1. As a result, claims 11 and 19 are allowable for the same reasons given above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 10, 15 and 30

Claims 10, 15 and 30 recite an object oriented framework mechanism comprising at least one object oriented model class that cannot be modified by a user, at least one system aspect class that is extensible by a user, and at least one system replicator class that cannot be modified by a user. As stated above in the remarks regarding claim 1, Prager is devoid of any teaching of an object oriented framework mechanism, of classes that cannot be modified by a user, and of classes that are extensible by a user. For these reasons, Prager cannot anticipate claims 10, 15 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), so claims 10, 15 and 30 are allowable over Prager.

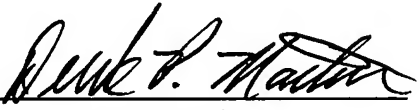
Claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 12-14, 16-18, 24, 25, 27, and 29

Each of claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 12-14, 16-18, 24, 25, 27, and 29 are allowable as depending upon an independent claim that is allowable for reasons given above. As a result, each of claims 4, 5, 7, 9, 12-14, 16-18, 24, 25, 27, and 29 are allowable as depending upon an allowable independent claim.

Conclusion

In summary, Prager does not teach, support, or suggest the unique combination of features in applicants' claims presently on file. Therefore, applicants respectfully assert that all of applicants' claims are allowable. Such allowance at an early date is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if this would in any way advance the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

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